

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first paragraph on page 10 with the following amended paragraph:

Example 2

The amount [[-]] and the distribution of molecular weights of total RNA obtained from human feces according to the method of the present invention were compared with those obtained according to Alexander's method (R. J. Alexander and R. F. Raicht, Digestive Diseases and Sciences, 43(12), 1998, 2652-2658). As a control, total RNA was extracted from the human colon cancer tissues using a commercially available RNA extraction reagent (ISOGEN, Wako)